SPRING 2012

Gateway Courses

GSFS courses designated as “gateway” are also “electives.”

• AAST 285 - African American Women’s History
  A general survey of the history of Black women from colonial times to the present. This course will examine the uniqueness of the Black female experience through the lens of the intersection of race, class and sex in American society. This course studies the lives of Black women from slavery through reconstruction, northern migration, the Harlem Renaissance, the civil rights movement, and on to the development of a contemporary Black feminism. The course includes literature and political commentary from Black women writers and activists. Instructor: P. Brooks

• ARBC 250 - Religion, Gender, and Cultural Identity in the Modern Arab World
  This course studies the connection between religion and cultural identities in modern Arab societies, with special attention paid to gender issues. We will examine 19th- and 20th-century Arab Muslim and Christian intellectuals’ views on: the decline of the Arab Muslim “golden age,” postcolonial national identities, and reviving the Arabic language. Also considered, the status of women and reconciliation of religious texts and modern values, and the correlation between globalization and Muslim religious resurgence. Taught in English. No prior knowledge of Arabic required. Instructor: M. Thomas

• CAST 100 - Introduction to Comparative American Studies
  The course will introduce students to the complexity of American social and cultural formations, with particular emphases on sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and gender, and to various methodologies of comparative analysis. Instructor: M. Baron

• CAST 211 - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Identities
  This course examines the production of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer identities in the United States as they intersect with important social markers such as race, class, gender, and nation. Situating specific case studies in historical, social, and comparative context, we explore issues such as the intersection of racial and sexual sciences, processes of community formation, the politics of embodiment, social justice movements and queer cultural productions. Instructor: M. Raimondo

• ENGL 261 - Constructing the Subject: African American Women and the Autotext
  Self-discovery and report has been foundational to the African-American intellectual and literary tradition, and this course focuses particularly on ways in which African-American women have re-conceptualized both autobiographical and disciplinary norms and boundaries as well as their own subjectivity (e.g., as actors, thinkers, and citizens) in now-classic “genre-bending” autotexts. Authors will include Jacobs, Wells, Hurston, Brooks, Angelou, Lorde, Williams, and Souljah; we will also read genre studies exploring common and uncommon features of autobiographical writing. American, Diversity, Post-1900. Instructor: G. Johns

Capstone Courses

GSFS courses designated as “capstone” are also “electives.”

• CAST 447 - Queer Positions
  When queer is a verb, what does it mean? This course explores key issues in the field of queer theory, including the relationship of sex, gender, race, class, and ability; critiques of liberalism and multiculturalism; normativity and resistance; representation and cultural production; and the politics of time and space. We will pay particular attention to the relationship between theory and practice in order to explore different approaches to social change. Instructor: M. Raimondo

• GSFS 300 - Maternal Health and Black Women
  Black women of childbearing age around the globe have worse maternal health indicators and outcomes than their non-Black counterparts. These indicators stem from life-long poverty, racism, gender discrimination, and limited life opportunities. This course examines the complex interplay of socio-historical factors and lived experiences affecting Black women’s health during reproductive years and assesses public health efforts geared toward improving their maternal health. Instructor: P. Kibera
• **SOCI 420 - Social Inequalities: Class, Race, and Gender**
This course will explore contemporary sociological approaches in the study of social inequality. The enduring structure and reproduction of inequalities along axes of class, race and gender are core problems of sociology. This seminar will examine these issues by first considering various theoretical issues utilized by scholars in the field. We will then examine how different thinkers have implemented of these theories and concepts in a variety of innovative case studies.  
*Instructor:* R. Baldoz

### Elective Courses

• **AAST 225 - Women in Caribbean History**
This course studies the economic, social, cultural and political activities of women in the Caribbean from the era of Pre-conquest to the dawn of political independence in the various colonies. It will therefore begin with an examination of the lives of indigenous Caribbean women and continue with an analysis of the historical setting and factors which affected the behavior of women of African, European, Chinese and Indian descent.  
*Instructor:* G. Gill

• **CAST 201 - Latinas/os in Comparative Perspective**
This course analyzes the varied experiences of Latinas/os in the United States. Using ethnography, literature, film, and history, this course will explore questions of immigration/transnationalism; culture and political economy; racial, ethnic, gender, and sexual identities among Latinas/os; the struggle for place in American cities; as well as the intersections of gender, work and family.  
*Instructor:* G. Perez

• **ENGL 358 - Women Writing Modernism: Modernism “When Women are Alone”**
In A Room of One’s Own, Virginia Woolf imagined a novelist exploring the “unrecorded gestures” and unexpected “sequences” that emerge “when women are alone.” This course will consider how “Modernism” looks and sounds differently “when women are alone” in its construction. We will read fiction by Woolf, Wharton, Stein, Rhys, Bowen, Barnes, West, Cather, Hurston, and Mansfield as well as poems by H.D. and Gwendolyn Brooks. Post-1900, Diversity.  
*Instructor:* J. Emery-Peck

• **GSFS 201 - Gender and Public Health**
The field of public health explores the ways class, gender, and privilege affect access to health care, which might be considered one of the most basic human rights. This mini-course features three distinguished public health professionals who will discuss their work in gender and public health internationally. Topics include working to reduce violence against women in Brazil, sex and vulnerability in the U.S., and structural and political issues affecting women's health in India. The course will meet for a lecture on Thursday at 4:30, followed by a discussion session Friday at noon for the three weeks of April 12, 19, and 26. P/NP or Credit/No Entry grading only.  
*Module: Second half. Instructor:* P. Kibera

• **HIST 104 - American History, 1877 to the Present: Major Problems of Interpretation**
This course will explore American politics, society, and culture from the post-Civil War era to the present. We will focus on changes in power relations in American society produced by social and political movements. We will also examine the construction and contestation of gender, race, ethnic, and class. This course will emphasize the use of primary sources, different modes of historical analysis and interpretation, and scholarly controversies.  
*Instructor:* R. Romano

• **POLT 303 - Seminar: Equal Protection and Implied Fundamental Rights**
This course is an exploration of the constitutional rights of gay citizens under the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses of the 14th Amendment. Topics include: same sex marriage; Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell in the military; gay rights in the workplace, equal protection versus a right of privacy basis for gay rights; sameness and difference under the law – gender, race and sexual orientation; relationship of equal protection, due process, and freedom of speech and association, and impact of Supreme Court on social change. Students may choose widely in selecting paper topics. This is a core research seminar in the Law and Society Program.  
*Instructor:* R. Kahn

• **RELG 303 - Anthropological Approaches to the Study of the Bible: Kinship and the Family in Ancient Israel**
This course examines the structure and function of the kinship unit known as the ‘House of the Father’ in the Hebrew Bible. The function of the ‘natal family’ or ‘House of the Mother’ will also be identified and explored. Modern ethnographic studies of kinship will provide a comparative
framework for conceptualizing the Israelite family. Topics include: patterns for brokering marriages, patterns of inheritance, perceptions of intimacy, the practice of blood vengeance, royal succession, and evidence for household religion. **Instructor:** C. Chapman